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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 29, 2006, the Examiner objected to the drawings, objected to claims 1, 2, 5, 11 and 18 and rejected claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-20 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Lytle in US Patent 6,492,834. The Examiner also indicated that claims 8, 13 and 21 were objected as being dependent on a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 14 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-21 remain at issue.

Drawings

The Applicants have submitted a new set of formal drawings. The objection to the drawings is no longer relevant.

Claim Objections

The Applicants have amended the claims to correct the objections noted by the Examiner.

The Art Rejection

The Examiner rejected certain claims as anticipated by Lytle. The Applicants strongly disagree. The Lytle reference does not anticipate the present invention as claimed.

Certain claims of the present invention are directed to a swap mux in a PLD including at least a first Logic Array Block (LAB) and a second LAB. The swap mux has a first set of selectable inputs directly coupled to the outputs of the first LAB and a second set of inputs directly coupled to the inputs of the second LAB. The output of the swap mux is used to drive the first LAB. A review of Lytle indicates that the reference fails to teach or suggest the present invention as claimed.

Lytle in Figure 6 shows a first LAB including the Logic Elements (LEs) 300 on the left side of the diagram, a second LAB including the LEs 300 on the right side of the diagram, and a MUX 504 (on the left side of the diagram) feeding the LEs 300 of the first LAB. As illustrated in the figure, the MUX 504 (on the left side of the diagram) receives: (i) the outputs of the LEs 300 of the first LAB; and (ii) inputs of the global horizontal (GH) lines 210. The input MUX 504 (on

the left side of the diagram) does not directly receive the outputs of the LEs 300 of the second LAB. On the contrary, the outputs of the LEs 300 of the second LAB would have to be first routed through the Output MUX Region 508 and the horizontal global lines 210 before ever reaching the input of the MUX 504 (on the left side of the diagram). There is no way in the reference for the outputs of the LEs 300 of the second LAB to be directly provided to the MUX 504 (on the left side of the diagram). Lytle therefore fails to anticipate the claims of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable and that this case is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. ALTRP190).

Respectfully submitted,
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